



Creative California Communities

2015-2016 Planning Grant Guidelines

Deadline: March 30, 2016 5:00 pm– (online submission)



The Mission of the California Arts Council, a state agency, is to advance California through the arts and creativity.

Learn more at www.arts.ca.gov

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California Arts Council



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Office Hours

8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Monday through Friday

Purpose: The California Arts Council (CAC), a state agency, was established in January 1976 to encourage artistic awareness, participation, and expression; to help independent local groups develop their own arts programs; to promote employment of artists and those skilled in crafts in the public and private sector; to provide for exhibition of artworks in public buildings throughout California; and to enlist the aid of all state agencies in the task of ensuring the fullest expression of our artistic potential.

The Council: The appointed Council of the CAC consists of 11 members who serve staggered terms. The Governor appoints nine members, the assembly Speaker appoints one member, and the Senate President pro Tempore appoints one member. Council members serve without salary, elect their own officers, and meet throughout the state to encourage public attendance. This body sets policy and has final approval of CAC grants.

Mission: To advance California through the arts and creativity.

Funding: The CAC is a state agency, funded from the state's annual budget process and proceeds from the California Arts License Plate and the Keep Arts in Schools tax return voluntary contribution fund, supplemented by funds from the National Endowment for the Arts. Its grants are usually matched by foundations, individuals, earned income, government agencies, or other organizations.

Information Access: Due to the Public Records and Open Meeting Acts, applications and their attachments are not confidential and may be requested by the media and/or public. Observers may attend but may not participate in, or in any way interfere with, Council meetings. Meeting dates and locations are posted at www.arts.ca.gov. Each meeting provides a designated time for public comment, although comments may be time-limited.

Grants Panels: Applications are evaluated by panels of experts, recognized in their respective fields, who rank applications according to program criteria. The CAC staff provides information but not recommendations to the panel. The Council reviews panel recommendations before making final funding decisions.

Appeal Process: Appeals to CAC funding decisions must be submitted on an official Appeal Form, available from the CAC, and postmarked within 45 days of the decision. Appeals are granted only on the following grounds:

1. Panel's assessment was based on a misstatement of factual information as contained in the application such that it negatively influenced the panel's recommendation; and/or
2. Incorrect processing of the required application material such that it negatively influenced the panel's assessment of the applicant's request for funding.

Note: Dissatisfaction with award denial or with award amount is not grounds for appeal.

Requirements: The CAC is mandated both by federal and state regulations to fund only organizations that have proof of nonprofit status under sec. 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code (Fiscal Receivers are eligible in some programs), or under sec. 23701d of the California Revenue and Taxations Code, or entities that are a unit of government; and that comply with the Civil Rights Acts of 1964, as amended; sec. 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended; the Age Discrimination Act of 1975; the Drug-Free Workplace Act of 1988; California Government Code secs. 11135-11139.5 (barring discrimination); the Fair Labor Standards Act, as defined by the Secretary of Labor in part 505 of title 29 of the Code of Federal Regulation; the Americans With Disabilities Act of 1990 ("ADA"); the Fair Employment and Housing Act; and the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996.

Ownership, Copyrights, Royalties, Credit: The CAC does not claim ownership, copyrights, royalties, or other claim to artwork produced as a result of a CAC grant. However, the CAC reserves the right to reproduce and use such material for official, noncommercial purpose, including but not limited to use on the CAC website, social media and print materials. In addition, the CAC requires documentation of grants activity, and appropriate credit for CAC partial support.

CREATIVE CALIFORNIA COMMUNITIES

2015-2016 PLANNING GRANT GUIDELINES

DEADLINE: March 30, 2016, 5:00 PM

Apply at cac.culturegrants.org



Background

The Creative California Communities program is rooted in the California Arts Council's (CAC) commitment to build and nourish California's robust creative economy and support of arts-focused creative placemaking.

"In creative placemaking, partners from public, private, nonprofit, and community sectors strategically shape the physical and social character of a neighborhood, town, city or region around arts and culture. Creative placemaking rejuvenates structures and streetscapes, improves local business viability and public safety, and brings diverse people together to celebrate, inspire and be inspired." – NEA Creative Placemaking Executive Summary

Purpose

The Creative California Communities (CCC) program supports collaborative projects that harness arts and culture as a creative placemaking strategy. Projects should represent the distinct character and quality of the community and present a vision for enhancing the social or economic livability of that community through the arts. Projects will benefit residents and visitors in California's communities by leveraging the assets of the creative sector (artists, cultural organizations and arts-related businesses) to address community needs or priorities.

Project Requirements

A limited number of planning grants are available to support nonprofits arts organizations with limited experience working in cross-sector partnerships, but have identified potential partners and are actively planning and designing a creative placemaking project.

Potential partner(s) may include local government agencies, business leaders, nonprofit organizations, or universities. This planning grant gives the applicant organization an opportunity to work directly with potential partners to plan a course of action for a creative placemaking project that addresses at least one of the following goals:

- Animate, activate or revitalize communities –neighborhoods, streets, blocks, city, region – using arts as the central project activity and artists as key participants in that effort.
- Activate new arts activities or expanded arts activities/elements within an ongoing event.
- Develop innovative arts –based approaches to address specific community identity, needs, circumstances or priorities.
- Stimulate increased participation/engagement in arts and cultural activities by residents and visitors.

- Bring together local arts, business and/or government entities to build capacity for arts and culture through collective action, and to mobilize public will in the community for the arts and culture.
- Grow creative industries and create jobs and opportunities for California artists.

Eligible Request Amount

Request for support may be made for \$2,500.

Matching Funds

CCC Planning Grants do not require a match.

Applicant Eligibility

- Previous recipients of a CCC grant are ineligible to apply.
- The applicant must be a California-based nonprofit arts organization or local arts agency with a history of arts programming for a minimum of three years prior to the time of application.
- The partnering organization must be California-based.
- Artists working with the applicant arts organization must show professional experience of **at least three years**; must be residents of California; and may not be engaged in the project as full-time students in a degree program.
- The arts organization must be a nonprofit arts organization, and must demonstrate proof of nonprofit status under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or section 23701d of the California Revenue and Taxation Code, or must be a unit of government.
- There are no fiscal agents allowed in the CCC program.
- Organizations that receive a CCC Planning Grant in FY 2015-16 will be eligible to apply for CCC program funding in FY 2016-17.
- Applicants may not receive a CCC Planning Grant and CCC Project Grant in the same cycle.
- Applicants to the CCC Planning Grant program are not restricted from applying to and receiving funding from other competitive CAC grant programs as long as those funds support distinctly different projects or activities.

Project Requirements

Funds may support, but are not limited to:

- Forums, community meetings, or symposiums related to creative placemaking activities
- Research or evaluation to support creative placemaking in the community
- Training or co-learning activities between artists, arts organizations and non-arts sector partners
- Development of communication, assessment and/or documentation strategies for a creative placemaking project

Application Process

CAC Cultural Grants is our online portal for the grant application and review process. CAC does not accept applications through any other means for this program. To apply, new applicants must sign up for a user account to access the CAC Culture Grants system, while returning applicants will log in with an existing user account. Detailed instructions and support can be found at www.arts.ca.gov and via the portal at <https://cac.culturegrants.org>.

Review Criteria

- *Quality of project:* Clarity of project narrative and strength of project plan.
- *Artistic merit:* Strength of artistic action plan as it related to arts organization and partners goals
- *Project impact:* Anticipated benefit to the arts organization, partners and community.

California Arts Council Decision-making

CAC program staff will evaluate all completed applications. The final authority for grant decisions is the appointed Council. Subsequent to receiving and reviewing the staff's recommendations, the Council will take into consideration the staff's recommendations and make final funding decisions at a public meeting.

What the CAC Does Not Fund

- Former grantee organizations not in compliance with CAC grant requirements (as stipulated in grant agreement)
- Non-arts organizations not involved in arts activities (as applicants)
- For-profit organizations (as applicants)
- Projects with fundraising purposes, including grant writing
- Other state or federal agencies
- Programs not accessible to the public
- Projects with religious or sectarian purposes
- Organizations or activities that are part of the curricula base of schools, colleges, or universities
- Indirect costs of schools, colleges, or universities
- Trust or endowment funds
- Purchase of equipment, land, buildings, or construction (capital outlay or expenditures)
- Out-of-state travel activities
- Hospitality or food costs
- Expenses incurred before the start or after the ending date of the grant

Timeline

February, 2016	Application available
March 30, 2016	Application deadline (online)

June, 2016	Funding decisions
Late June, 2016	Funding notifications
Late June, 2016 – June 30, 2017	Funded activity period

Grantee Requirements

- To better inform our elected representatives as to the value of the arts and the use of state funds, you will be expected to include--with your approved grant agreement--copies of signed letters sent to the Governor and your State Senate and Assembly representatives thanking them for your grant.
- Use CAC logo on all printed, electronic materials, and websites (programs, catalogs, postcards, posters, newsletters, leaflets, publications, etc.) that specifically reference this grant.
- Credit the CAC on all printed and electronic materials: *"This activity is funded in part by the California Arts Council, a state agency."*
- When discussing the project and activities supported by this grant, verbal credit must be given to the CAC.
- A Final Report summarizing grant-funded activities and accomplishments will be required at the end of the grant period.

Staff Assistance

CAC staff is available on a limited basis to offer guidance and clarification in preparing your proposal. We recommend that you contact staff well in advance of the deadline to ensure you can be accommodated. **Contact Shelly Gilbride: Programs Officer at shelly.gilbride@arts.ca.gov or 916-324-0075.**